

which runs mid-way between the cylinders. By adjusting the rib pattern, it is possible to modify the resilience and energy absorption properties of the pad.

A further improvement is that the pad of this invention is optimally about $\frac{1}{2}$ to about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick at the center and tapered toward the edges vertically and horizontally to a thickness at the margins of from about $\frac{1}{8}$ to about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

The following claims are intended to particularly point out and claim the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A headband adapted to be worn on the head of a soccer player to protect against injury including a resilient padded portion adapted to ride on that area of the head normally used to head a soccer ball, wherein said padded portion has a surface adapted generally to abut the head, said surface being vertically curved to generally conform to the curvature of the head in the area used for heading a soccer ball, said area including the front of the forehead and extending vertically up to and including the area in proximity to the junction of the forehead and the scalp, said resilient pad being composed of a material which mitigates the effect on impact on the players head and neck while at the same time maintaining adequate rebound of the ball in a way which does not alter game play;

the improvement wherein said resilient pad is a molded rubbery elastomeric material having a generally flat or smooth surface on the side adapted to abut the soccer player's head and the opposed face having an open grid structure defined by outwardly projecting patterns of short ribs or patterns of short and mid-sized ribs with at least some of the intersections of the ribs being defined by outwardly projecting cylinders which are taller than the ribs or, if both types of ribs are present, the cylinders are taller than both the shortest and the mid-sized ribs.

2. The headband of claim 1 wherein cylinders are open, top-to-bottom to provide airways or passages for the flow of cooling air and to enhance player comfort.

3. A headband adapted to be worn on the head of a soccer player to protect against injury including a padded portion adapted to ride on that area of the head normally used to head a soccer ball, wherein the padded portion is thicker at its upper extremity than at the lower extremity;

the improvement wherein the padded portion is a molded rubbery elastomeric material having a generally flat or smooth surface on the side adapted to abut the soccer player's head and the opposed face having an open grid structure defined by outwardly projecting patterns of short ribs or patterns of short and mid-sized ribs with at least some of the intersections of the ribs being defined by outwardly projecting cylinders which are taller than the ribs or, if both types of ribs are present, the cylinders are taller than both the shortest and the mid-sized ribs.

4. The headband of claim 3 wherein the cylinders are open, top-to-bottom to provide airways or passages for the flow of cooling air and to enhance player comfort.

5. A headband adapted to be worn on the head of a soccer player to protect against injury including a padded portion adapted to ride on that area of the head normally used to head a soccer ball, wherein the padded portion is thicker at its center and thinner at its side extremities;

the improvement wherein the padded portion is a molded rubbery elastomeric material having a generally flat or smooth surface on the side adapted to abut the soccer player's head and the opposed face having an open grid structure defined by outwardly projecting patterns of short ribs or patterns of short and midsize ribs with at least some of the intersections of the ribs being defined by outwardly projecting cylinders which are taller than the ribs or, if both types of ribs are present, the cylinders are taller than both the shortest and the midsize ribs.

6. The headband of claim 5 wherein the cylinders are open, top-to-bottom to provide airways or passages for the flow of cooling air and to enhance player comfort.

7. A headband adapted to be worn on the head of a soccer player to protect against injury including a padded portion adapted to ride on that area of the head normally used to head a soccer ball, wherein said padded portion comprises a resilient elastomeric polymeric body member, said resilient body member having air holes therethrough to permit the flow of cooling air and the escape of moisture;

the improvement wherein the padded portion is a molded rubbery elastomeric material having a generally flat or smooth surface on the side adapted to abut the soccer player's head and the opposed face having an open grid structure defined by outwardly projecting patterns of short ribs or patterns of short and midsize ribs with at least some of the intersections of the ribs being defined by outwardly projecting cylinders which are taller than the ribs or, if both types of ribs are present, the cylinders are taller than both the shortest and the midsize ribs.

8. The headband of claim 7 wherein the cylinders are open, top-to-bottom to provide said air holes for the flow of cooling air and to enhance player comfort.

9. A shock absorbing pad comprising a molded rubbery elastomeric material having a generally smooth surface on the side and the opposed face having an open grid structure defined by outwardly projecting patterns of short ribs or patterns of short and midsize ribs with at least some of the intersections of the ribs being defined by outwardly projecting cylinders which are taller than the ribs or, if both types of ribs are present, the cylinders are taller than both the shortest and the midsize ribs, wherein said cylinders are open, top-to-bottom, to provide airways or passages for the flow of cooling air.